

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 PC-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

----- 094070

R 191550Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4646

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, WA

SUBJECT: A STEP TOWARD SOME KIND OF CHANGE IN RACE
RELATIONS IN NAMIBIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT A HUNDRED SWA
CIVIL SERVANTS ARE TOURING NAMIBIA TO INFORM WHITES ABOUT IMPENDING
CHANGES IN THE TERRITORY. ACCORDING TO SUNDAY TIMES, "THIS CRASH
BRIEFING MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 30" TO GAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR
CHANGES

WHICH WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THAT DATE. HOWEVER, DIRK MUDGE, SENIOR
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SWA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, HAS TOLD US
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THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO TAKE ANY ACTION BEFORE MAY 30. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TELCON MAY 19, MUDGE TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT HE, PIK BOTHA, SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S., AND EBEN VAN ZYL, MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, MET MAY 14 WITH ABOUT 450 CIVIL SERVANTS AND ADDRESSED THEM ON PRESPECTIVE CHANGES AND THE NEED FOR THEM. MUDGE SAID THAT ACCENT WAS PLACED ON NEED FOR NEW RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES. OF THESE CIVIL SERVANTS, SOME ONE HUNDRED ARE NOW TRAVELING THOUGHOUT NAMIBIA CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS, WHOM MUDGE SAID WERE PROVING TO BE A HINDRANCE TO CHANGE IN THE TERRITORY. IN JUNE THE TRAVELING TEAMS WILL EXPAND THEIR PURVIEW TO NON-CIVIL-SERVANT WHITES.

3. IN MEANTIME, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY STUDY GROUP, WHICH HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AND DISCUSSING WITH BLACKS AND WHITES THE IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING THOSE LAWS, IS CONTINUING ITS WORK. MUDGE SAID IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR STUDY GROUP TO HAVE ITS INTERIM REPORT READY FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY END OF MAY. ASSEMBLY SESSION ENDS JUNE 5 AND HE HOPEFUL "A STATEMENT" ON THIS TOPIC WILL BE MADE, BUT HE SAID IT DOUBTFUL THAT WHOLESALE REVISION OF LAWS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED RIGHT AWAY. SOME ACTION CAN BE TAKEN UNILATERALLY BY SWA WHITE AUTHORITIES, BUT HE NOTED THAT SOME RACIAL PRACTICES ARE BASED ON SOUTH AFRICAN LAW AND THAT REQUEST S FOR CHANGES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. MUDGE WAS EMPHASIZING, HE SAID, THAT IT IS NOT GOING TO BE POSSIBLE TO DO AS MUCH AS MANY WOULD WANT IN SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. HE SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES VERY MUCH AWARE OF MAY 30 DATE, BUT HE FEELS IT IN INTEREST OF ALL PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA THAT CHANGES BE INSTITUTED ONLY WITH GREAT CARE AND NOT HURRIEDLY AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, POORLY.

5. MUDGE SAID THAT HIS WIDE TRAVELS AND TALKS WITH MANY PEOPLE IN SWA MAKE HIM OPTIMISTIC THAT WHITES WILL BE REASONABLE IN ACCEPTING NECESSARY CHANGES. (IN THIS AND PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS HE HAS AVOIDED, HOWEVER, BEING SPECIFIC AS TO EXACT NATURE OF THESE CHANGES.) HE ADDED THAT UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE SIGNS THAT SOME WHITES ARE "PANICKING," AND THAT IT VERY MUCH IN INTERESTS OF SWA ECONOMY AND THEREFORE OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY THAT SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PANIC BE FORESTALLED. HE SAID HE WASSNOT SURE, BUT THOUGHT A PORTION OF PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS IN WINDHOEK MAY 20 WOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD REASSURING THE WHITES.
BOWDLER

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